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FROM PAGE 1

'New Enemy' Discovered In Asbestos

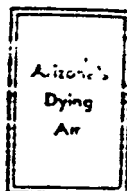
Lung Cancer Hazard Lies In Inhalation

By MARIAN HOLVAG
Star Medical Editor

Asbestos, the material that has been called the "dress of kings" because it was used in coronation ceremonies for centuries, is now being called the "new enemy" because of its potential as a lung cancer hazard.

The insulating material, used in many of the buildings in modern America, has become a new and serious hazard.

It has been found in canyons deep within the human body, in places such as the ovary, where a problem of birth control arrived in the future — and if it continued to it — is the subject of much research.



A few days ago, the Tucson City Council became the first in the country to take action against the spraying of asbestos in construction.

The purpose of the action is to control and hopefully to prevent some of the destruction which it can cause in the human body.

Johns-Manville, the country's largest producer of commercial asbestos products, takes a strong stand.

Edmund F. Jenner, director of environmental control at Johns-Manville, told a meeting of the Medical Society of New Jersey that the risk of asbestos-caused disease depends largely on control of dust arising from its manufacture or application.

To this must be added a third control factor.

Asbestos, which is used in some tires, in brake and clutch linings, floor tiling, sound-proofing, shingles, ropes, threads, paints and fire-proofed materials, must be rendered harmless in ordinary use.

Dr. Morris Fishbein, in an editorial in Medical World News, maintains that asbestos particles have been found in the lungs of at least a fourth of the adults who died in urban areas.

"It has been predicted," says Fishbein, "that in the not-too-distant future, the incidence of asbestos-induced lung cancer will exceed that associated with cigarette smoking."

Asbestos-related cancer problems, Fishbein says, but it is not only the direct exposure to asbestos that is the danger.

Johns-Manville, which has been sponsoring scientific research on the problem since the 1940s.

Among the research projects under way are a study of some 20 thousand workers in the asbestos industry, a study of the health of people who live in areas of exposure to the major types of asbestos used in the United States.

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